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Mister Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
My presence here represents a further effort by a Timorese to break the barrier which isolates East Timor and the silence which surrounds the dramatic events that we have lived through during the past 14 years.

Is it worthwhile delving in the past to describe the way in which the Indonesian army came, as they claim, to "liberate" us?

Is it worthwhile describing the circumstances surrounding what the Indonesians claim as our choice to integrate East Timor with Indonesia?

Others before me, here and before the Commission, have already had occasion to do this. If I also very briefly do so, it is because we hope, through the accumulation of our testimonies, to set out more clearly the real nature of the Indonesian intervention in our country.

In 1975 I was a nurse. Three weeks after the invasion I was instructed to work in the radiology department of the civil hospital in Dili which had been occupied by the military. The former patients at the hospital, Timorese civilians, had been taken out and left in some rooms of the Central Clinic outside the hospital.

I worked in the military hospital up to November 1976. During that period of 11 months I was picked up and taken for interrogation 3 times, and each time I was beaten during interrogation. On the third occasion I was tortured with electric shocks by a doctor from the Red-Berets in the former house of Joaquim Babo at Colmera.

On the 8th of November I was arrested by a captain Tarigan. I was taken to the Military Police Barracks and then to Comarca prison where I remained for 29 months.

The horrors I witnessed are beyond description. The methods of physical and mental torture were very varied and the torturers rivalled one another in their zeal. I recall from that torture-filled period, when we had only meagre rations of rice and water, that our tormentors, proud of their inventions, used to boast of their acts and were praised by their commanding officer who kept a record of their discoveries in a notebook.

After leaving prison I was appointed head of department at the administrative offices of the Health Services. But in June 1980, when Timorese attacked the radio and tv transmittors, and also the Indonesian munitions depot in Dili, I was once again arrested and imprisoned for 43 days along with many others at Mes Korem. I was again beaten, by a captain called Zamirad. I witnessed scenes of sadism which showed the depths to which man can descend when he is engaged in actions which are without moral justification, as is the case with the invasion of my country.'

I am not going to describe here those degrading scenes, where torture, sexual humiliation and sodomy were all combined together, but they remain forever engraved on my memory and on that of many of my countrymen. Even if there were no other reasons, these would be reason enough for our sentiments towards the Indonesians to be very different to those expressed in the words which they oblige us to use in addressing them, such as "Bapak" for example which means "Father".

Having been barred from holding any public function after my release from prison, I worked in the office at St Joseph's School, the only

school in the diocese which maintains a certain autonomy from the Indonesians. I had worked as a nurse within the public health service under the Portuguese colonial administration. In 1979, therefore, I put my name down on the International Red Cross list to leave East Timor. I only succeeded in getting out this year after a wait of 10 years.

The arrests and tortures continued, you have already heard about the wave of arrests in October-November 1988, in preparation for and after the Indonesian President's visit to Dili.

The opening-up of East Timor from the 1st of January 1989, which was heralded with much publicity, has had little effect: some tourists may enter but the representatives of humanitarian organizations such as Amnesty International may not. Freedom of movement for Timorese has always been limited: Timorese in Dili who wish to go to Manatuto, which is 50 km away along the main Timor highway towards Baucau, cannot do so because they have not got a "Surat Jalan" (travel permit); in April a group of civil servants from the Public Education Service who wished to go to Baucau, were not only prevented from going there but were also physically manhandled.

Each new visit to East Timor is preceded by fresh arrests. Such is the case at the moment with the possible visit of the Pope. "These arrests are being made for the security of the Pope" claims Col. Bimo the head of the Secret Service of the East Timor High Command. But according to the local catholic bishop, he is trying to eliminate "undesirables" and to create "an atmosphere of fear". Three of the teachers from St. Joseph's School, Lucas da Costa, Vitor da Costa and Nuno Corvelo Andrade were arrested and tortured along with many others.

The Catholic Church is itself the victim of repression. Its priests are called to the Military Barracks to explain their sermons. The catholic scouts group of which I was one of the leaders was forbidden to fly its flags during the occasion of the consecration of our bishop. Certain people who were arrested in October-November were released on condition that they spy on the priests and the people in the parishes; this means that, to avoid being accused themselves of not wishing to cooperate, they are forced to make accusations against the people they are told to keep under surveillance, and even to invent things if they have nothing to report.

Mister Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
That is all that the short time at my disposal allows me to say to you. I beg you, in the name of justice and of the principles which underlie this Commission, which are independent of the interests of Governments, political regimes or ideological orientations, to take into consideration this widespread repression which has lasted in East Timor for 14 years and which continues today.

Your indifference or your silence would contribute to the physical, cultural and moral extermination of a small people simply because they dare to demand that which is theirs by right: their liberty and their independence.

Mister Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,
I thank you for having given me the opportunity to speak to you and for the attention with which you have listened to me.

Antônio Maria de Araûjo